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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

VOL. 25 NO. 9 SEP. 1988

TREND SETTERS

WYOMING	June '88	July '88
Labor Force	239,397	236,446
Employment	227,870	225,235
Unemployment	11,527	11,211
Rate (Raw)	4.8	4.7
Rate (S.A.)	5.1	5.2
Mining Hourly Wage	$14.62	$14.58
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	44.6	44.1
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	5.3	5.4
Mining Hourly Wage	$12.55	$12.61
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	42.6	42.2
Consumer Price Index		
All Urban (1982-1984 = 100)		
U.S. City Avg.	118.0	118.5
Year Change (U.S.)	+4.0	+4.1

S.A.-Seasonally Adjusted

IN THIS ISSUE:

— Good News for Wyoming's Lumber Industry
— Wyoming Counties—A Ten Year Look

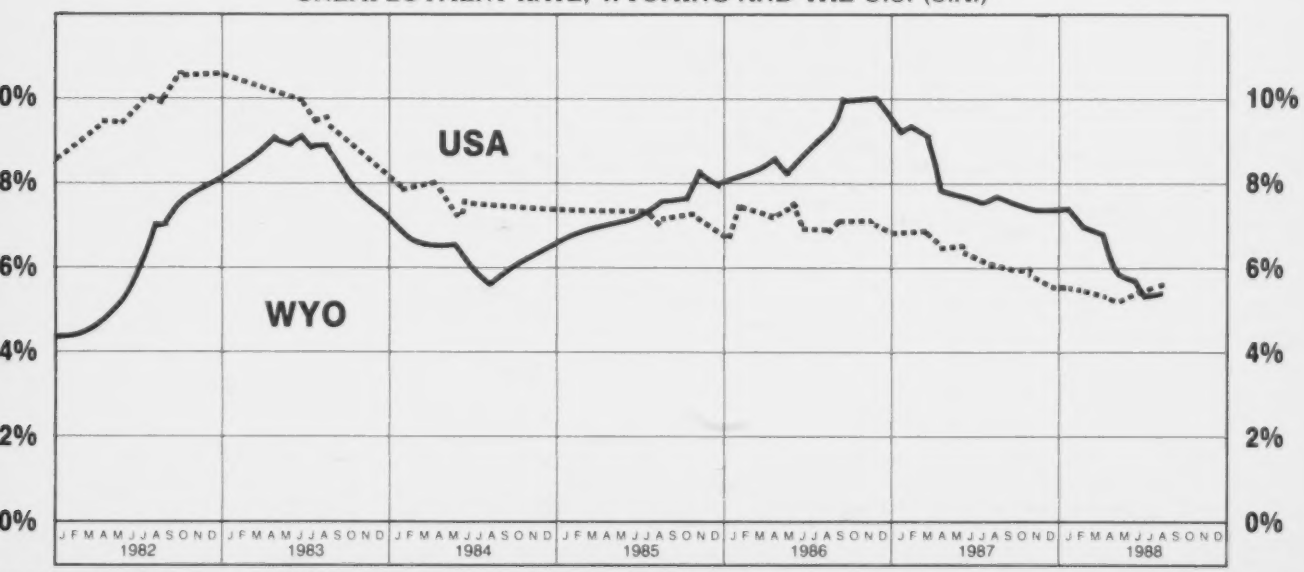
U.S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT 5.4 PERCENT

The civilian worker seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.4 percent in July, with 6.6 million unemployed across the nation. This compares with rates of 5.3 percent in June and 6.0 percent in July, 1987. Since July of last year, the number of the unemployed has fallen by 630,000, and the jobless rate has declined six-tenths of a percentage point.

The jobless rate for adult men for July (4.5 percent) and that for adult women (5.1 percent) were about unchanged from June, while the rate for teenagers rose by 1.6 percentage points to 15.2 percent. The rates for whites (4.7 percent) and blacks (11.4 percent) were little changed from June.

The recently released August rate jumped to 5.6 percent, the same as May, but continued below the year ago rate of 6.0 percent.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S. (S.A.)



WYOMING EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, Research & Analysis Section
Prepared in conjunction with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

STATE'S JOBLESS RATE DOWN AGAIN IN JULY

For the sixth month in a row the statewide unemployment rate continued its downward slide, to 4.7 percent seasonally unadjusted. This was the lowest rate recorded since September, 1984 when the rate was also 4.7 percent, and compares to 7.3 percent a year ago. The Wyoming seasonally adjusted rate was 5.2 percent, a little lower than the national rate of 5.4 percent.

In June, the latest data available for the 50 states, Wyoming's unadjusted unemployment, at 4.8 percent, ranked 19th with Florida among the states compared to 11th in June, 1987. In June Louisiana ranked first at 10.5 percent and New Hampshire was last at 2.0 percent.

MOST WYOMING COUNTIES CONTINUE LABOR FORCE DECLINES

At 236,400, the July Wyoming labor force was down 3.0 percent from a year ago, mainly due to a sharp decline in the number of unemployed. A positive economic indicator is the total worker count for July. Total employment, at 225,200 was almost unchanged from the 226,000 recorded a year ago. If this trend continues it would indicate that the economy has at least leveled off, after declining employment numbers since 1983.

In July, 16 of the 23 counties in the state reflected the annual state-wide labor force downturn. On the bright side, throughout the state annual employment gains were noted in manufacturing, mining and services. Other major industries in the state were at or below year ago levels.

TETON COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT AT RECORD LOW 1.5 PERCENT

The Jackson, Wyoming area, driven by a tourist boom, registered a 1.5 percent unemployment rate in July, an all time record low for Teton County. In addition, their labor force posted an annual gain in excess of 11 percent, almost 1,600 additional workers more than last year. Albany county, home of the University of Wyoming, ranked second in unemployment with a rate of 2.3 percent. Sweetwater had the highest jobless level at 7.4 percent.

The Casper and Cheyenne areas, Natrona and Laramie counties, in July had about the same number of jobseekers, over 1,500. Because of a larger labor force, however, Laramie County's rate of 4.2 percent compared to 5.1 percent in Natrona County.

GOOD NEWS FOR WYOMING'S LUMBER INDUSTRY

According to information presented in the Western Wood Products Association's *1987 Statistical Yearbook of the Western Lumber Industry*, Wyoming saw a substantial increase in lumber production for 1987. The state's lumber production totalled 284 million board feet (MBF) in 1987, up from the 239 MBF recorded in 1986. The state saw its lowest production in recent years in 1982, a scant 135 MBF.

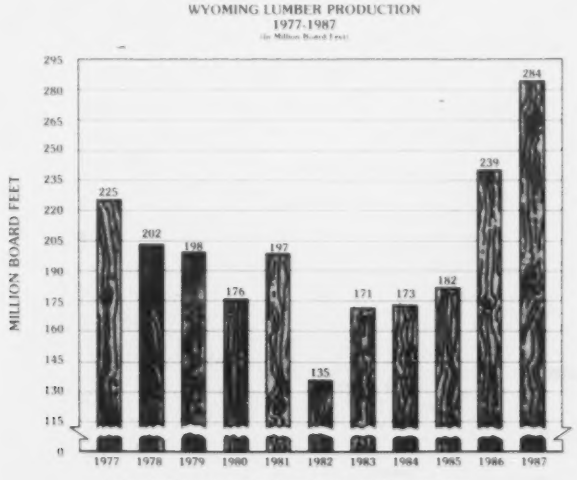
The estimated wholesale value of the lumber produced in Wyoming in 1987 was $71.4 million, a 20.2 percent increase over 1986. For 1982 the estimated value of lumber was $29.5 million.

During 1987 the Wyoming forest products industry saw employment increasing, adding 170 new jobs. Logging camps and contractors added 53 new workers, while sawmills and planing mills added 112. The remaining "all other" group gained five workers.

Most of Wyoming's lumber is sold to markets in the midwest or to parts of the south central United States. Lodgepole pine accounts for the lion's share of the lumber cut, 60.5 percent, while ponderosa pine accounts for another 26.7 percent.

Albany, Converse, Crook, Platte, and Weston counties as a group saw their production increase from 67 MBF in 1986 to 69 MBF in 1987. The Carbon, Hot Springs, Johnson, Park, and Sheridan County group saw an increase in their lumber production from 89 MBF to 130 MBF. The group of Fremont, Lincoln, Sublette, and Uinta counties also saw an increase from 83 MBF to 85 MBF.

The accompanying graph shows the annual production of lumber in Wyoming from 1977 through 1987.



WYOMING COUNTIES . . . A TEN YEAR LOOK

Continuing with this issue of the "Trends" two counties will be highlighted each month based on information from Bearfacts, a fact sheet from the Regional Economic Information System of the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

CAMPBELL, WYOMING 1976-1986

Campbell County's population of 36,700 ranked 4th in the state.

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

In 1986, Campbell had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of $13,755. This PCPI ranked 4th in the state, and was 108 percent of the state average ($12,774) and 94 percent of the national average ($14,639). In 1976, Campbell's PCPI of $8,718 ranked 2nd in the state. The average annual growth rate of PCPI over the past 10 years was 4.7 percent, less than the state average (6.3 percent) and less than the national average (8.2 percent).

TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME

In 1986, Campbell had a total personal income (TPI) of $505,164*. This TPI ranked 4th in the state and accounted for 7.8 percent of the state total. In 1976, Campbell's TPI of $133,138* ranked 8th in the state. The average annual growth rate of TPI over the past 10 years was 14.3 percent, more than the state average (9.0 percent) and more than the national average (9.3 percent).

EARNINGS BY INDUSTRY

Earnings of persons employed in Campbell increased from $130,077* in 1976 to $456,619* in 1986, an average annual growth rate of 13.4 percent. The largest industries in 1986 were mining, which accounted for 46.2 percent of earnings; state and local government, 12.4 percent; and services, 10.5 percent. In 1976, the largest industries were construction, with 25.6 percent of earnings; mining, with 25.1 percent; and services, 11.4 percent. Of the industries that accounted for at least 5 percent of earnings in 1986, the slowest growing from 1976 to 1986 was construction (8.8 percent of earnings in 1986), which increased at an average annual rate of 1.9 percent; the fastest was mining, which increased at an average annual rate of 20.5 percent.

CARBON, WYOMING 1976-1986

Carbon County's population of 19,400 ranked 10th in the state.

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

In 1986, Carbon had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of $12,499. This PCPI ranked 10th in the state, and was 98 percent of the state average ($12,774) and 85 percent of the national average ($14,639). In 1976, Carbon's PCPI of $7,657 ranked 6th in the state. The average annual growth rate of PCPI over the past 10 years was 5.0 percent, less than the state average (6.3 percent) and less than the national average (8.2 percent).

TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME

In 1986, Carbon had a total personal income (TPI) of $242,210*. This TPI ranked 9th in the state and accounted for 3.7 percent of the state total. In 1976, Carbon's TPI of $132,141* ranked 9th in the state. The average annual growth rate of TPI over the past 10 years was 6.2 percent, less than the state average (9.0 percent) and less than the national average (9.3 percent).

EARNINGS BY INDUSTRY

Earnings of persons employed in Carbon increased from $118,157* in 1976 to $190,134* in 1986, an average annual growth rate of 4.9 percent. The largest industries in 1986 were state and local government, which accounted for 19.9 percent; transportation and public utilities, 18.2 percent; and mining, 16.8 percent. In 1976, the largest industries were mining, with 30.9 percent of earnings; transportation and public utilities, 12.9 percent; and state and local government, 11.1 percent. Of the industries that accounted for at least 5 percent of earnings in 1986, the slowest growing from 1976 to 1986 was mining, which declined at an average annual rate of 1.4 percent; the fastest was state and local government, which increased at an average annual rate of 11.2 percent.

*All income estimates with the exception of PCPI are in thousands of dollars.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - (1982-1984 = 100)

ALL URBAN

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD & BEVERAGE	HOUSING	ENTER-TAINMENT	APPAREL & UPKEEP	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
July 1988	118.5	118.8	119.1	120.5	112.7	108.9	139.3
Annual % Change	4.1	4.5	3.8	4.4	5.0	2.7	6.6

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 1

WYOMING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ITEM	JUL 1988[1]	JUN 1988[1]	JUL 1987[2]	Percent change From A Month Ago	Percent change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	236,446	239,397	243,861	- 1.2	- 3.0
Unemployment	11,211	11,527	17,874	- 2.7	- 37.3
Employed Labor Force	225,235	227,870	225,987	- 1.2	- 0.3
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law)[3]	172,900	172,400	173,411	0.3	- 0.3
b. Agriculture[3]	13,926	14,729	13,331	- 2.5	4.5
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seas. Adj.*	4.7% 5.2%*	4.8% 5.1%*	7.3% 8.0%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adj.*	5.5% 5.4%*	5.5% 5.3%*	6.1% 6.0%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.)[4]	1.6%	1.8%	2.4%	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 642.98	$ 652.05	$ 601.92	- 1.4	6.8
Average Weekly Hours	44.1	44.6	41.8	- 1.1	5.5
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 14.58	$ 14.62	$ 14.40	- 0.3	1.3
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	12,852	15,330	20,017	- 16.2	- 35.8
a. Initial	1,933	2,167	2,483	- 10.8	- 22.2
Weeks Compensated	8,619	11,675	18,913	- 26.2	- 54.4
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 1,310,039	$ 1,752,780	$ 2,986,411	- 25.3	- 56.1
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 151.20	$ 149.57	$ 157.52	1.1	- 4.0
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
New Applications Received During Month	N.A.	N.A.	3,216	XXX	XXX
Non-Ag. Openings Received	N.A.	N.A.	3,071	XXX	XXX
Non-Ag. Placements	N.A.	N.A.	2,105	XXX	XXX
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 532.14	$ 534.63	$ 521.22	- 0.5	2.1
Average Weekly Hours	42.2	42.6	42.0	- 0.9	0.5
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 12.61	$ 12.55	$ 12.41	0.5	1.6
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1982-84 = 100	118.5	118.0	113.8	0.4	4.1
Producer Prices, All Commodities 1982-84 = 100	107.8	107.4	103.5	0.4	4.2
Food and Beverage 1982-84 = 100	118.8	117.6	113.7	1.0	4.5

[1] Preliminary. [2] Final. [3] Not Benchmarked to the Current Population Survey. [4] Rate does not include claimants receiving benefits under extended benefit provisions.

Source: Wyoming Employment Security Commission and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 2

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE & UNEMPLOYMENT

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	JUL 1988	JUN 1988	JUL 1987	%CHANGE JUN-JUL	%CHANGE JUL-JUL	JUL 1988	JUN 1988	JUL 1987	JUL 1988	JUN 1988	JUL 1987
Statewide	236,446	239,397	243,861	- 1.2	- 3.0	11,211	11,527	17,874	4.7	4.8	7.3
Statewide Seasonally adjusted									5.2	5.1	8.0
Albany	15,909	15,983	15,473	- 0.5	2.8	368	424	627	2.3	2.7	4.1
Big Horn	4,546	4,780	4,604	- 4.9	- 1.3	298	295	457	6.6	6.2	9.9
Campbell	14,485	15,048	15,577	- 3.7	- 7.0	750	856	1,363	5.2	5.7	8.8
Carbon	8,334	8,321	8,663	0.2	- 3.8	438	464	653	5.3	5.6	7.5
Converse	5,171	5,331	5,550	- 3.0	- 6.8	328	334	436	6.3	6.3	7.9
Crook	3,324	3,486	3,233	- 4.6	2.8	128	166	185	3.9	4.8	5.7
Fremont	14,165	15,329	14,678	- 7.6	- 3.5	976	1,072	1,392	6.9	7.0	9.5
Goshen	5,972	6,405	6,021	- 6.8	- 0.8	297	294	394	5.0	4.6	6.5
Hot Springs	3,012	3,127	3,051	- 3.7	- 1.3	109	117	237	3.6	3.7	7.8
Johnson	3,715	3,880	3,660	- 4.3	1.5	144	138	219	3.9	3.6	6.0
Laramie	36,080	36,506	36,798	- 1.2	- 2.0	1,502	1,470	2,017	4.2	4.0	5.5
Lincoln	5,961	6,042	6,571	- 1.3	- 9.3	341	351	637	5.7	5.8	9.7
Natrona	30,127	30,309	32,112	- 0.6	- 6.2	1,537	1,563	2,966	5.1	5.2	9.2
Niobrara	2,263	2,020	2,097	12.0	7.9	71	73	94	3.1	3.6	4.5
Park	14,731	14,676	14,606	0.4	0.9	539	517	832	3.7	3.5	5.7
Platte	4,254	4,440	4,207	- 4.2	1.1	221	198	322	5.2	4.5	7.7
Sheridan	11,400	11,564	12,285	- 1.4	- 7.2	519	489	849	4.6	4.2	6.9
Sublette	2,584	2,680	2,895	- 3.6	- 10.7	154	172	260	6.0	6.4	9.0
Sweetwater	17,013	17,998	18,740	- 5.5	- 9.2	1,265	1,269	1,832	7.4	7.1	9.8
Teton	15,781	14,074	14,184	12.1	11.3	236	250	364	1.5	1.8	2.6
Uinta	9,494	9,501	10,537	- 0.1	- 9.9	578	617	1,084	6.1	6.5	10.3
Washakie	4,923	4,803	4,954	2.5	- 0.6	259	258	407	5.3	5.4	8.2
Weston	3,201	3,095	3,365	3.4	- 4.9	153	140	248	4.8	4.5	7.4
United States						—			5.5	5.5	6.1
United States Seasonally adjusted									5.4	5.3	6.0

*The data contained in this table includes updated procedures mandated by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition the 1985 data has been benchmarked to the Current Population Survey as conducted in Wyoming.

Table 3

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	JUL 1988[2]	JUN 1988[3]	JUL 1987	JUN 1988	JUL 1987
	Total	Total	Total	to JUL 1988	to JUL 1988
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	181.0	183.9	183.2	- 1.6	- 1.2
Manufacturing	8.3	8.1	8.1	2.5	2.5
Durable Goods	3.9	3.8	3.8	2.6	2.6
Nondurable Goods	4.4	4.3	4.3	2.3	2.3
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.0	0.9	1.0	11.1	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	172.7	175.8	175.1	- 1.8	1.4
Mining	17.8	17.8	17.5	0.0	1.7
Contract Construction	9.7	9.4	12.0	3.2	- 19.2
Transportation & Public Utilities	12.8	12.7	12.8	0.8	0.0
Railroad Transportation	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0
Transportation except Railroads	4.9	4.8	4.9	2.1	0.0
Comm., Elect., Gas & Sani. Serv.	6.0	6.0	6.0	0.0	0.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	40.8	40.9	41.7	- 0.2	- 2.2
Wholesale Trade	6.8	6.7	6.8	1.5	0.0
Retail Trade	34.0	34.2	34.9	- 0.6	- 2.6
Food Stores	4.9	4.9	4.9	0.0	0.0
Automotive Dealers & Serv. Stat.	5.4	5.2	5.5	3.8	- 1.8
Eating & Drinking Places	13.0	13.4	13.4	- 3.0	- 3.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	7.2	7.2	7.5	0.0	- 4.0
Services	36.1	35.9	35.4	0.6	2.0
Personal Services	1.9	1.8	1.8	5.6	5.6
Medical & Other Health Services	7.9	7.8	7.5	1.3	5.3
Government	48.3	51.9	48.2	- 6.9	0.2
Federal Government	8.6	8.4	8.6	2.4	0.0
State & Local Government	39.7	43.5	39.6	- 8.7	0.3
State Government	12.9	13.3	12.3	- 3.0	4.9
Local Government	26.8	30.2	27.3	- 1.8	- 1.8

(See Footnotes at End of Table)

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3 (Cont'd) *(Publication of Cheyenne data is not sanctioned by the Bureau of Labor Statistics)*

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	JUL 1988[2]	JUN 1988[3]	JUL 1987	JUN 1988	JUL 1987
	Total	Total	Total	to JUL 1988	to JUL 1988
CASPER (Natrona County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	26.1	26.3	26.8	- 0.8	- 2.6
Manufacturing	1.4	1.4	1.3	0.0	7.7
Nondurable Goods	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	27.5	24.9	25.5	10.4	7.8
Mining	2.6	2.5	2.5	4.0	4.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	2.4	2.3	2.3	4.3	4.3
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Contract Construction	1.4	1.3	1.8	7.7	- 22.2
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.7	1.7	1.8	0.0	5.6
Wholesale & Retail Trade	8.0	7.9	7.7	1.3	3.9
Wholesale Trade	2.4	2.3	2.2	4.3	9.1
Retail Trade	5.6	5.6	5.5	0.0	1.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.4	1.4	1.5	0.0	- 6.7
Services	5.3	5.3	5.5	0.0	- 3.6
Government	4.3	4.8	4.7	- 10.4	- 8.5
Federal Government	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.0	- 14.3
State & Local Government	3.7	4.2	4.0	11.9	- 7.5
CHEYENNE (Laramie County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	29.9	30.3	30.0	- 1.3	- 0.3
Manufacturing	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	28.8	29.2	28.9	- 1.4	- 0.3
Contract Construction	2.0	1.9	2.2	5.3	- 9.0
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.5	2.5	2.4	0.0	4.2
Wholesale & Retail Trade	7.2	7.0	7.0	2.9	2.9
Wholesale Trade	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	6.5	6.3	6.3	3.2	3.2
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.8	1.8	1.9	0.0	- 5.3
Services & Miscellaneous	5.8	5.7	5.8	1.8	0.0
Government	9.4	10.2	9.5	- 7.8	- 1.1
Federal Government	2.7	2.7	2.8	0.0	- 3.6
State & Local Government	6.7	7.5	6.7	- 10.7	0.0

[1] Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-ag establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. [2] Subject to revision. [3] Revised figures.

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